

THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Rep. Adam B. Schiff, Co-Chair

Rep. Judy Biggert, Co-Chair

April 20, 2005

The Legislative and Judicial Branches: Bridging the Gap

Join the Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch

Dear Colleague:

We believe now more than ever that we must rededicate our efforts to restoring the historic comity between the Legislative Branch and the Judicial Branch. As Members of the House of Representatives with a strong interest in improving the relationship between the two branches, we formed a caucus in the last Congress dedicated to this goal.

The bipartisan Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch is committed to working with the judicial branch on issues that come before Congress and directly impact the Judiciary, including addressing the need for additional judgeships, analyzing proposed sentencing reforms and changes to civil procedure, responding to judicial vacancies, assisting with judicial compensation, and securing funding for security, courthouses and other priority projects.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist cited our efforts in his January 2005 Year-End Report and mentioned his meeting with members of our caucus last year in the Capitol. We agree with the evaluation of the Chief Justice that "sitting down face-to-face helps to establish better working relationships," and we hope to continue these efforts throughout the year.

While the two branches certainly have distinct roles, consultation with the Judiciary can only improve the work of both branches, given that each possesses a unique perspective.

You can demonstrate your support for our efforts to promote a healthy relationship between the two branches by joining the Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch. To join, please contact Phil Tahtakran of Rep. Schiff's office at 5-4176 or Melissa Guido in Rep. Biggert's office at 5-3515.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

JUDY BIGGERT
Member of Congress